

News



In the big house...
Abandoned pets face a grim end. See 2A



Welcome back...
S.C. unit returns and is given a warm welcome. See 7A

Life & Times



Trash invasion...
Litterers from off post despoiling land. See 1B

Sports



Army sports...
Knight's schedule set for 2005. See 4B.

In Memoriam

Battlefield casualties...
Two Raider Soldiers lost their lives in Iraq.
A memorial tribute for the Soldiers is planned for Feb. 16 when a formation will be held at Catrell Field.
The Raider Soldiers had recently deployed from Ft. Stewart in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III and the fight against Global World Terror.
The story on Page. 2A.

Weather Forecast

FRIDAY

56° 33°

SATURDAY

60° 39°

SUNDAY

64° 46°

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48th Bde receives first ACUs issue

Story and Photos by
Sgt. Jonathan M. Stack
Editor

More than 4,000 Soldiers of the 48th Infantry Brigade, Georgia National Guard, received the new Army Combat Uniform as well as the rapid fielding initiative at Fort Stewart Feb. 1 — 10.

Here have been three prototypes; the final one was debuted at the Pentagon on June 14 2004, the Army's birthday.



Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Myhre talks to the media about the new ACUs Feb. 8.

The ACUs consist of a jacket, trousers, patrol cap, moisture wicking T-shirt and improved hot weather and cold weather desert boots.

The ACUs will be replacing the battle dress uniform and desert combat uniform, said Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Myhre, who helped design the ACUs. The biggest problem with the DCUs and BDUs was the functionality while wearing the equipment.

All together Story and Photos bythere were 22 changes made, he said. There are no more buttons on the top garment, they would fall off. Now there is a zipper.

He added, Soldiers like to wear layers when it is cold, the top has been enlarged to allow for this.

"The ACUs will help Soldiers save money," Myhre said. "They will not have to buy patches and have them sewn on. The ACUs now have Velcro."

There were not many changes to the trousers.

There are no more adjustable straps, now there

See Uniform —Page 4A

5/7 receives colors carried during Vietnam conflict

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.
1st BCT Public Affairs

Soldiers from 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment were presented with a set of the regiment's colors Vietnam veterans carried with them during the Vietnam War in a ceremony Jan. 5 at Caro Field.

The colors were presented to 5/7 Cavalry to carry with them during their deployment to Iraq. The Soldiers deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III.

"It is with absolute honor, pride and thankfulness that we accept these battle tested colors today," Lt. Col. Jody L. Petery, commanding officer, 5/7 Cavalry, said. "We'll carry them proudly to Iraq and wherever else our nation calls us to serve. These colors,

the presence and support of the great veteran's of the 5/7 Cav, and the support we receive from our nation truly strengthen us as we prepare to deploy this week."

Veterans who served with 5/7 Cav. during the Vietnam War shared memories of battle and triumphs with those who attended the ceremony.

"A Soldier came up to me and asked if I would pray with him," said James Vaught (Lt. Gen., USA, Ret.). "He said he never really believed in God, but that day he said he needed a prayer, so I prayed with him. That same Soldier went on to fight very bravely and was awarded a Silver Star."

Some of the stories that were told were not of glory. Many Soldiers were lost during 5/7's time in

3rd Inf. Div. prepared, equipment on-line

Eagle Group and LSI work around the clock uparmoring Army vehicles. Vehicles brought up to "battle ready" standards. Additional plating credited with saving lives.

Story and Photos by
Jennifer Wingfield
Frontline Staff

The Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division have departed and are well into their mission for Operation Iraqi Freedom III.

And much of the equipment in their possession has been uparmored. The verb uparmor is defined as "to increase armored protection of something (usually a vehicle)."

Working 16 to 14 hours per day during the month of December, the men of Eagle Group and Lear Seagler Incorporated were making sure that much of the division's deploying equipment was ready for the test of battle when the time came.

Bob Hough, site manager for Eagle Group Fort Stewart, noted that the division had done some fantastic things regarding uparmor. "The leadership in the division saw the problem early on," began Hough. "The situational awareness in country during OIF I allowed the leadership here to know that sending Humvees and some other light wheeled vehicles into Iraq without uparmor could be a problem. They were very proactive in making sure the division had the uparmor kits to hundred of pieces of equipment."

They have been able to apply armor in a good, organized, rotational fashion that allows enough time to make sure everything was set and ready before

transport to the port, making them probably the best prepared, Hough added.

Humvees are vulnerable to terrorist activities so uparmor kits were applied to the majority of them, especially those that supply security and logistical support.

Commanders throughout the division were able to choose those vehicles specifically to be uparmored for mission requirements.

Another point made by Hough was that there were no changes made to the vehicles. "We are just trying to bring them up to battle ready condition."

This included such system checks as suspension track and fire control systems, bore sites, engines, electronics, gun systems, electronics, and nuclear, biological, chemical.

The latter check to make sure the tank is sealed.

Senior technician for the M1A1's, and referred to as "all around M1 genius," is Ed Talbot. "We make sure each tank is mission capable, which includes fire control, communications and NBC systems.

The communications aspect refers to operations of the communication within and between other vehicles."

The division is acquiring equipment already in place in theatre.

Consequently, the division did not take everything from Ft. Stewart.

See Uparmor ————— Page 15A



Sp. Timothy Smith, Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, 1st Brigade Combat Team, visits with some students of a school in his company's area of operations Jan. 12. Smith's unit renovated the school from the ground up.

Troops making lasting impression on citizens

Story and Photos by
Staff Sgt. Merrion LaSonde
122nd Mobile Public Affairs

CAMP RUSTAMIYAH, Baghdad, Iraq — You only have to look as far as the smiles on the children's faces to know that the Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery have made a difference in the Rustamiyah community.

"We have made a big impact on the kids," said New Orleans, La. native Staff Sgt. Eldred Stewart, squad leader, Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, 1st Brigade Combat Team. "They will run to us now and tell us they love us all the time. Personally that makes me feel good. I love kids and I like to see the joy on their faces when you help them out. When we first started patrolling, the parents didn't want the kids to get too close because they really didn't

know what we were about.

We gradually earned their trust and the people are very friendly now. Some people will come out and offer us tea and bread.

That is a great gesture of them welcoming us to their community," Stewart said.

As in many areas of Baghdad, some districts are worse than others.

"When we first took over this zone, we noticed it was a very impoverished area," said Livingston, Calif. native Capt. David Haynes, commander, Alpha Battery. "Some of the largest problems were a lack of essential services, the difficulties traversing the zone of responsibility because of the condition of the roads and the economic prosperity of the citizens of the zone.

Looking around we discovered there was no sewage system to speak of so

See Kids ————— 13A



Vietnam veterans Jim Carson and Haskell Westmoreland uncase a set of 5/7 Cav. used during the Vietnam War during a ceremony Jan. 5



Super Bowl excitement...
3rd Infantry Division Soldiers at Camp Liberty, Iraq, react to their favorite team as they get the opportunity to watch Super Bowl XXXIX.

Courtesy Photo

VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS



Marne Six Sends

Rock of the Marne

Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Jr.
3rd Inf. Div. commanding general

The Marne team continues our deployment to Kuwait and Iraq in support of our assigned mission as part of the global war on terror.

1st Brigade Combat Team arrived at its assigned Forward Operating Bases in Iraq and is initiating operations. Aviation Brigade is completing its move into Iraq and has also begun operations.

The rest of the Division continues to move equipment and personnel to our camps in Kuwait. Our Soldiers have done a tremendous job of getting organized for combat operations while enduring ever changing winter desert weather. But, we're enjoying the winter, thinking of the summer.

We had some rain last week that created small

ponds in and around the camp where none were before. Temperatures have varied, but mostly have been moderate with one or two cold mornings reminding us thatyes it does cool off in the desert.

Also, we have had several days of wind which easily kicks up the dust and can make almost everything unpleasant.

The new equipment that our Soldiers received at home and here during the Rapid Fielding Initiative such as protective eye goggles have already paid off.

Tough and realistic training continues on the firing ranges along with other final preparations to complete our pre-combat requirements before heading into Iraq.

We offer our sincere condolences to the families of Staff Sgt. Steven Bayow and Sgt. Daniel Torres from 1BCT who were killed on Feb. 4.

I would also ask all of you for your continued prayers in support of CW2 Matthew Uran who was injured in the AH-64 crash.

Additionally, do not forget the over 650 Soldiers of the Marne home team, from 110th QM, 416th Trans, 559th QM, 293rd MPs, 95th TMDE and 179th MPs, who have already been on mission in Iraq prior to the division's deployment. Some of these Soldiers should be returning home soon.

Our mission is unchanged.

We will complete our training program, receive and make sure our equipment is ready, move forward into Iraq and relieve our fellow Soldiers who have been in combat for the past year.

Mission.....Soldiers.....Teamwork
"Rock of the Marne!"

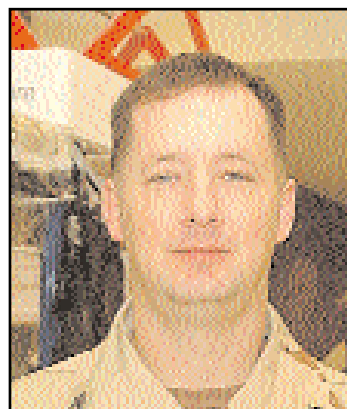
Marne Voices

The Frontline
Readers respond to the question:

"What is your
Valentine's day message?"

"Happy Valentine's
Day to my wife
Tracey."

Sgt. 1st Class
Richard Gilbert
G-6, 3rd Infantry
Division



"We love you and
miss you. Happy
Valentine's Day."

Brooke Byars
Wife of Spc. Jonathan
Byars
1-3 Brigade Troops
Battalion



"We love you and
miss you and hurry
home."

Angel Lakin
Wife of
Sgt. Nicholas Lakin
1-76 Field Artillery
Regiment



"Happy Valentine's
Day. We love you and
miss you."

Tatjana Fitzgerald
Wife of Cpl. Patrick
Fitzgerald
6-8 Cavalry Regiment



"Happy Valentine's
Day, Sgt.
MacDougal... love
always, your family.
We love you and miss
you."

Kelly MacDougal
Wife of Sgt. Richard
MacDougal
4-64 Armor



"Happy Valentine's
Day. We will miss
you...love, Nancy,
Jordan and Christian."

Nancy Kas
Wife of Staff Sgt.
Derek Kas
Special Troops
Battalion



CENTCOM News

49 graduate
from Iraqi Highway
Patrol course

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The Iraqi Highway Patrol graduated 49 recruits from the interim Highway Patrol Academy in Al Mehaweel Feb. 6.

The officers completed a three-week training course combining components of police ethics and policing in a democratic society with the operational skills needed by the IHP in preparation for their mission to secure the nation's highways. A strong emphasis was given to firearms training and vehicle mounted patrolling.

Tasked with providing law enforcement and security along Iraq's highways and major roadways, the IHP will also respond to incidents involving anti-Iraqi forces, foreign terrorists, car bombs and attacks on convoys. Currently, there are approximately 600 highway patrol officers on the force, which is slated to reach 6,300 officers in July 2006.

The next IHP course, scheduled for mid-February, will include a train-the-trainers block of instruction in which Iraqis will be trained as instructors. These instructors will then conduct future training courses for the IHP.

"You 49 graduates represent one more step toward our goal of securing Iraq's roads for the people of Iraq," said Major General Ali, IHP commissioner.

MNSTC-I CERP makes
a
difference in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The Commander's Emergency Response Program assists Iraqi citizens by supporting and developing local programs and institutions. This much-needed financial support provides resources

to deserving organizations or localities to help them get back on their CERP for these important, community enhancements.

CERP funds are appropriated. In fact, the program has been so through the Department of Defense successful that Iraqi Interim budget and, in this case, are allocated Government officials have agreed through the Coalition Forces Land to fund and administer 17 projects Component Combatant Command to previously slated for funding by each major command sector of operation. CERP. These projects, totaling

tions. Because the jurisdiction of the \$5.9 million, include drainage Multi-National Security Transition improvements, irrigation, school Command, Iraq covers all areas of renovations, and the construction



operation, projects are identified and of a fine arts institute.

developed by MNSTC-I in communities. Three projects highlighted by ties all over Iraq. Gillis demonstrate the variety of

U.S. Army Capt. Tom Gillis, who projects being developed.

oversees the CERP projects for the In Taji, four villages are being Coalition Military Assistance touched by a program to provide Training Team, believes this is an 12 school buses and more than excellent way to touch Iraqi communities. 9,000 school uniforms. As the nities in a positive way. "It clearly is a Ministry of Education is enforcing means through which to improve the uniform standards for all female Coalition-Iraqi relationship in a students in primary and intermediate-meaningful and lasting fashion," ate grade levels, now many less Gillis said

The projects must not exceed attend school. According to U.S. \$500,000 and must demonstrate an Army Col. Richard Hatch, important public need. To date, 44 MNSTC-I SJA, "This is one the projects have been completed with 58 best uses of CERP money I have more in progress or in the process of seen yet."

being submitted. More than \$17 million. Twenty schools will benefit

from the \$429,000 program. The buses and uniforms will be procured through local vendors. Planners expect delivery by the end of February.

In An Numaniyah, the Haji Jalal Women's & Pediatric Hospital will receive funding for clinic supplies including: ultrasound equipment, a centrifuge, refrigerators, an incubator, ophthalmoscopes, stethoscopes, sphygmomanometers, nebulizers, various monitors and other useful medical equipment. The \$176,000 project is underway.

In Al Kasik, nine important projects are in the works including renovating the village school, constructing a road from the village to Temarat, constructing an elementary school, building four clinics, repairing the village well, stringing a power line and building a water factory, a soccer field, and a park for children.

Small Rewards
Program to aid in capturing terrorists

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq is using the "Small Rewards" program to collect information or non-lethal assistance that results in the capture of a person, weapon or documents on a wanted list.

The effort, officials hope, will identify and capture terrorist weapons and explosive-making materials.

Rewards are given to foreign nationals and Iraqi citizens, including members of the Iraqi army and police, who provide qualifying information.

The Small Rewards program is designed, over time, to reduce the capabilities and threats associated with terrorist activities.

All informants are kept strictly confidential.

In Memoriam — A farewell to our fallen Soldiers

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.
1st BCT PAO

Raiders suffer first casualties of OIF 3 Two Soldiers were killed from 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division when an improvised explosive device was detonated beside their vehicle in Bayji, Iraq February 4.

Killed were Staff Sgt. Steven Bayow, 42, an infantryman, and a native of

Colonia Yap, Federated States of Micronesia, and Sgt. Daniel Torres, 23, an infantryman from Fort Worth, Texas.

The Soldiers were conducting operations in Bayji with 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, 1st Infantry Division, when an IED exploded at a site along the roadway where they were driving.

Torres died on the scene at approximately 4:25 p.m. Medical personnel evacuated Bayow to surgical combat hospital

at Forward Operations Base Speicher where he died at approximately 5:57 p.m.

A memorial service was held for the fallen Soldiers at FOB Summerall, Feb. 6. Torres and Bayow were the first casualties for the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Inf. Div. during Operation Iraqi Freedom 3, which is attached, along with the Marne Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team to the 42d Infantry Division.

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3rd Inf. Div. NCOIC — Master Sgt. Gregory Kaufman
3rd Inf. Div. — Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft
3rd Inf. Div. — Pfc. Ricardo Branch
1st Bde. — Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.
2nd Bde. — Spc. Ben Brody
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4th Bde. — Pvt. Dan Balda

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Sgt. Justin Deschaine, provides security for the convoy after a brief stop to recover a vehicle that broke down minutes from Camp Dagger.



Soldiers of HHC, 1BCT are briefed on rules-of-the-camp upon arrival at Camp Dagger.

Support brigade preparations facilitates division movements

Story and Photos by
Sgt. 1st Class Peter J. Chadwick
Support Brigade Public Affairs

CAMP VIRGINIA, Kuwait — “The will to succeed is important, but what’s more important is the will to prepare,” Texas Tech basketball coach, Bobby Knight said.

3rd Infantry Division’s Division Support Brigade preparation to succeed in their mission supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom III started at their home station in Fort Stewart, Georgia. They have been putting finishing touches on their training here.

“I think the key is individual tasks,” said 1st Sgt. William A. Payne, first sergeant, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, DSB. “Then you work your way up to unit tasks,” he said.

Payne, a 23 year Army veteran, said training starts with fundamentals such as Common Task Training, a list of skills each Soldier must master, as well as weapon’s training and the individual’s uniform and equipment.

“In order to train the Soldier, we have to make sure senior leaders are trained,” said Payne, who claims Huntington, W. Va. as home. Whether its radio training or weapons qualification, it all becomes the noncommissioned officer’s task to train.

“It is important that soldiers know the prop-

er way to speak on the radio,” Sgt. Horace Cooper, supply sergeant, D Company, 3rd Supply and Services Battalion, said.

“Using proper procedure while communicating by radio keeps the enemy from being able to tell exactly what you’re up to,” Cooper said.

Pfc. Kenneth McCarthy, single channel radio operator, 2nd Detachment, 3rd Signal Company, agrees.

“You’ve got to be able to talk to get the mission done,” said McCarthy, a Zachary, La. native. “If somebody breaks down in a convoy, he can call in (a) where, what and why.”

Capt. Carlos Keith, the detachment commander, said it increases command and control.

“Everybody is in the know,” said Keith, a native of Albany, Ga.

The unit has also received new equipment to help them know where they are.

“The Battle Command Sustainment Support System provides a near real time, continuous graphical representation of the current situation within the Area of Operation and displays it on a single portable laptop,” explained Capt. Scott McFarland, with the Training and Doctrine Command Systems Management Office. “The 3rd ID is the first unit to be fielded BCS3 and deploy into theater with the system.”

“Units have set-up operational views within BCS3’s mapping capabilities to track all their unit’s internal deployment shipments,” McFarland said.

McFarland said the system allows the unit’s logisticians to immediately see the current location of their shipments and containers.

“We can follow all our convoys,” Spc. Studie A. Crawford, missile technician, DSB operations. “If we are running low on supplies, we know when we can expect more,” said. Crawford, from Gary, In., said it helps them to know where their troops are.

New equipment is not only helping the unit know where the troops are, it also helps the troops know their own location. Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Cason, electronic maintenance chief, HHC, DSB, taught a class on a hand-held, global positioning system. His experience with repairing the Army version, similar to the commercial system he was teaching, made him the natural choice, he said.

During the class, Cason explained to the Solders how to set coordinates on the cell-phone sized electronic guide and then navigate from point “A” to point “B.”

“The purpose of the GPS is to decrease the likelihood of getting lost in a convoy or separated from a unit,” said Cason, a Lakeland, Fla. native.

See Movement ————— **6A**

Learning the ropes: medics, counterparts

Story and Photo by
Pfc. Ricardo Branch
3rd Infantry Division Public Affairs

CAMP LIBERTY, Baghdad — The Soldiers and personnel based in Iraq will be able to take a back seat ride next month as the 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers coming to replace them have started to arrive and team up with their counterparts in theater as part of the transition of command gets underway.

Over in the medical aid station at the division logistical support area in Camp Victory the transition has already begun as medics from the advanced party of 3rd Inf. Div. arrived and are working with the 1st Cav. medics to prepare themselves for the eventual handover next month.

Medics from Headquarters and Headquarters Support Company, Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Inf. Div. are the Soldiers calling the division medical aid their new home. They moved in to the building Jan. 26 to learn from the medics working there.

"I came here early to meet with the 1st Cav. Div. medics to see where I will be working and to get some hands on experience with where I'll be at and what I will be doing," said Pfc. Alfredo Chiquito, medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Support Company, Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Inf. Div.

"Over here in Iraq, I really don't know what to expect," he said. "The patients I get here might be the usual sick call patients or patients with real

wounds, but that is what I've been practicing for all along back in Stewart."

Helping the 3rd Inf. Div. medics, medics from 1st Cav Div. are showing the Soldiers how to get medical supplies outside the Camp, introduce the medics to the other aid stations working in the area, and the overall running of the medical aid station — its hours and where everything is located, etc.

"The medics who are arriving are doing a good job," said Staff Sgt. Jason Rankin, Headquarters Company, 1st Cav. Div. "One of them has already screened and treated a few patients in his first three days here."

"This makes me confident that they will be able to do the job here when we're gone so the transition here should go smoothly," he said.

Chiquito and the other Soldiers working in the aid station know they have a tough job ahead of them, but they are confident in the training received at Fort Stewart that they can accomplish their mission.

"When the division had their field training exercise (in October of last year), we had to assist simulated combat casualties, find out what's wrong with them and treat them as necessary," Chiquito said.

"When you have to go through the procedures of combat casualties back home, that's when you know what you'll be doing here is very real, so I'm fortunate to be here," he said. "The people already working here have lots of experience doing the job and can show me the ways that gets things done."



Courtesy Photo

San Antonio, Texas native Pfc. Alfredo Chiquito, a medic with the Headquarters Support Company, Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, administers an IV to Spc. Kate Norley, Headquarters Company, 1st Cavalry Division, in the division's medical aid station at Camp Liberty.

A few days after 3rd Inf. Div. moved in, the Soldiers working the aid station had imparted one important piece of advice for them.

"Take advantage of your down time because when it's a slow day, don't kid yourself, it will get busy when you least expect it," said Spc. Kate Norsey, Headquarters Company, 1st Cav. Div.

She added, "Everything here is real so you have to be prepared for the responsibility of saving lives anytime."

Chiquito, and the 3rd Inf. Div. medics working in the aid station realize the mission and are using the time to be prepared and learn from the experienced.

"It's a good thing," Chiquito said. "Coming here early and learning from 1st Cav. medics allows me to receive insight on the mission ahead."

The message to the Soldiers on Camp Liberty is clear, 3rd Inf. Div. medics are here and will be ready.

VFW auxiliary donates to USO

Story and Photos by
Sgt. Roy Henry
Georgia National Guard
Public Affairs Office

Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division watched this past Thursday to the presentation of a check that will help the USO provide more assistance to 3rd Infantry Division troops.

At a presentation at the Fort Stewart Education Center, the Soldiers watched as Susan Simons, Women's Auxiliary of Veterans of Foreign Wars, Georgia de-partment president, handed a \$2,000 check to Mitchell Bush, president of the USO's Savannah chapter.

Every year, Simmons said, the VFW provides funds to the USO to use as it sees fit in the service of military members around the world.

While such funds are usually mailed to the USO, Simmons

said she persuaded the auxiliary's treasurer to give her the check so she could put it directly into Bush's hands.

"Our treasurer told me the check would end up in Atlanta, but I told her 'no,' we have Soldiers in South Georgia who need it just as bad, let me turn it over to the Savannah chapter," she said, looking out at the uniform clad group before her. "So I'm quite glad to be able to give this check to Mitchell [Bush]."

Bush accepted the donation with a smile, and a handshake, and then thanked Simmons and the VFW for its support of the USO and the military.

It's a great day he said for the USO and for the service members the \$2,000 donation would serve.

The support the community can provide to military members, wherever they may be, is always a great thing. "However, we are

gluttons," Bush said with a slight laugh, "and we will accept more because it's all for you, the troops."

Among the 3rd ID Soldiers who attended the presentation was Command Sgt. Maj. Sam Perrotta, the division command sergeant major for rear operations.

Perrotta, after thanking the VFW, recounted how the USO helped him as an 18-year-old private in 1977 after he became stranded at an airport and then seeing a USO sign there.

A family member who volunteered with the organization took him in and gave him a taste of USO hospitality, he said.

That encounter made a definite impression on him, Perrotta said.

"I've been in the Army for 28 years," he added. Turning to Bush Perrotta said, "I just can't thank you enough for all you and your organization does."



Sgt. major Sam Perrotta speaks about his personal experiences with the USO in his early time in the Army.



Susan Simons shakes hands with Mitchell Bush after the donation.



Soldiers look on as Mitchell Bush thanks the VFW for their contribution.



Spc. Michael Watson examines his new uniforms.



Soldiers of the 48th Brigade line up to receive the new Army Combat Uniforms at Fort Stewart Tuesday.

Uniforms from Page 1A

There were not many changes to the trousers.

There are no more adjustable straps, now there are drawstrings, he said.

The pockets have been enlarged to allow room to put more equipment and tilted to make them more accessible while sitting.

The ACUs were extensively tested with Soldiers from —
• National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.
• The Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La.

Ten thousand ACUs were given to the 1st Stryker Bde., Fort Lewis, Wash. to take to Iraq.

Myhre added, a survey was done and 95 percent of the Soldiers like them.

It is pretty cool to be the first unit to receive the ACUs, said Spc. Jeffrey Campbell, 48th Inf. Bde., as he tried on the new Kevlar helmet.

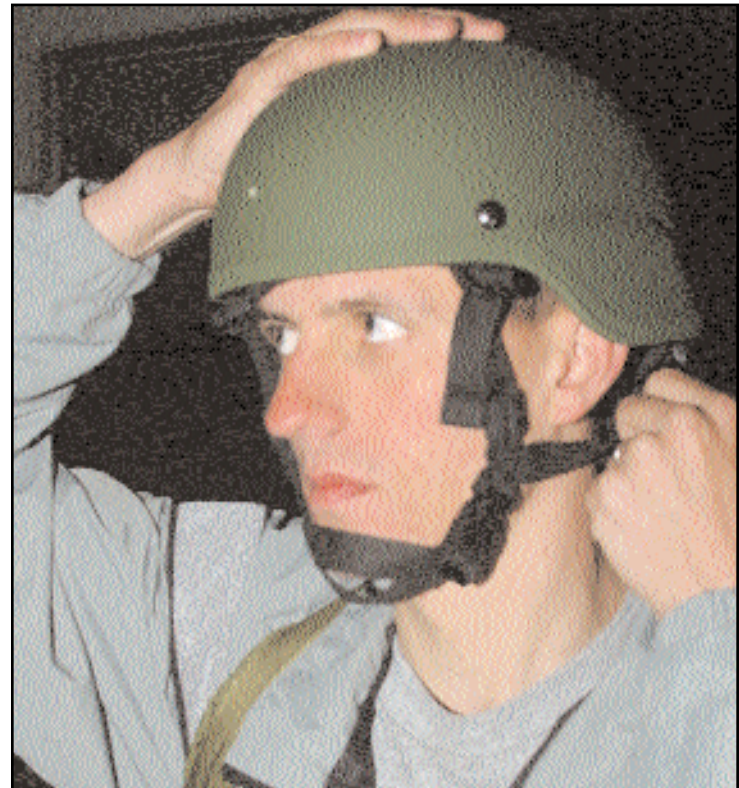
"I like them," said Pfc. Clifford Apple, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Bde., 130th Inf., Illinois National Guard. "They fit better."

The ACUs are now being issued to Soldiers who are about to deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan.

In October, they will begin to be issued to basic trainees and drill sergeants.

In April 2006 they will be available in clothing sales.

The 48th Inf. Bde. will be wearing their new uniforms in there upcoming deployment in May.



Spc. Jeffrey Campbell, 48th Brigade, adjusts his new kevlar helmet to fit his head.

Engineers oversee water service upgrade for Baghdad

Story and Photos by
Sgt. John Queen
3rd Brigade Combat Team
1st Cavalry Division

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Ground was broken Jan. 19 in Baghdad’s Karradah district for a water distribution network upgrade project overseen by the 1st Cavalry Division’s 8th Engineer Battalion.

The \$2 million project is just one of numerous projects the battalion has been helping with in the area



An Iraqi worker begins digging up 26 miles of worn-out pipeline that supplies water to the local community.

during their recent deployment here to the Iraqi area. “This project,” said Lt. Col. Brian Dosa, commander of the battalion, “will bring a more reliable drinking water system to the people that live in these two mahallas.” A mahalla, Dosa explained, is similar to a postal code zone in the United States. Nearly 50,000 people live in the two mahallas affected by the project. The scope of this project involves removing 40 km (26 miles) of pipes that currently supplying water to the neighborhoods and replacing them with new stronger ones.

“The contractors are replacing all the pipes that bring drinking water from the main water lines to the houses throughout the distribution networks,” Dosa said. “They’ll be replacing them with ductile iron pipes which are commonly used in the United States.”

Over an extended period of time, water pipeline systems deteriorate for various reasons. This deterioration can be accelerated by weather, ground movement, loss of ground support or nearby construction. At present, this system uses asbestos cement pipes that are 20-years-old and have weakened, allowing contaminates to enter the drinking water. Normally this variety of pipe is only good for ten years.

While engineers from the battalion do not do physical work on these projects, they do interface with the town halls, known as amanants, and neighborhood councils to identify the need for such projects.

“You can say we’re kind of like project managers,” Dosa said. “We’re the ones that help identify the need for the projects.

“Once we get the design from the city amanant, we solicit from many different contractors and receive their bids to do the work.”

Contractor selection is then made in conjunction



Lt. Col. Brian Doza inspects pallets of ductile iron pipe that were recently delivered to the Karradah district in Baghdad.

with the battalion, the neighborhood council and the local amanant.

“We have a committee select the contractor,” Dosa explained. “Once the contract is done, we provide indirect project oversight – like quality assurance.”

After the contract for this project was signed in December, new ductile iron pipes for the system were ordered.

This type of pipe is known to be tough,

strong, and have high resistance to corrosion.

“It took nearly a month for the systems’ new pipes to arrive from Europe,” Dosa said, “and it will take two more months to complete the project.”

The engineer commander also said that this project is important in other aspects as well for the community, “It will not only help improve the basic services for the people here but provide job opportunities for them as well.”

Afghans not ready for U.S.troops to leave

Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Though U.S. and coalition troops have been in Afghanistan for nearly four years, the Afghan people do not see them as occupiers, according to the coalition’s director of operations there.

Instead, “the Afghan people fear the coalition might leave too soon,” Army Col. Cardon Crawford, who has spent the past eight months as

director of operations at Combined Forces Command Afghanistan, said today during an interview with the Pentagon Channel.

“What you find from the Afghan people,” he said, “is that we are there at the invitation of the Afghan government to stay as long as they would like us to stay. And in the Afghans themselves, I think you find overall their position is, ‘Please don’t leave us.’”

Crawford acknowledged the

country remains dangerous and that coalition troops are unwelcome in certain regions. But, he added, most Afghans are appreciative of the progress being made in their country, especially Afghanistan’s first democratic election in which more than 8.5 million Afghans, 40 percent of them women, took part.

Coalition forces also helped train and equip a new Afghan National Army that now has more than 18,000 members, and 29,000 more Afghan

citizens are employed as police officers, Crawford noted. Eighty-eight schools have been completed, with 160 more under construction, while 12 new health clinics have been opened, with 182 new facilities under way, he added.

And, Crawford said, nearly 5 million Afghan children are now attending schools nationwide, and 4 million children have been vaccinated against measles and polio. Such progress, Crawford said, leads him to

believe the greatest danger in Afghanistan is not the Taliban overthrowing the new central government.

“The biggest threat is that U.S. and coalition forces might leave too soon, prematurely thinking that the job is done,” he said.

While the rebuilding effort is going well, Crawford said, the greatest mission for coalition troops is providing and maintaining security and stability.

Eco-watch

Make a difference right at work
with Earth Share, bringing the leading
environmental groups together.
How? Please visit our web site at
www.earthshare.org.



Earth Share
The environment. One simple way to care for it.



Spc. Robert Adams

Among the many improvement and service upgrades slated for Hunter Air Field is a new Popeye's fast food restaurant that will help with the noon time lurch rush.

2006, 2007 announced Budget emphasizes Department of Defense commitment to the Global War on Terror and Soldier support

Frontline Staff

Today, the Army announced details of its budget for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, which covers the two-year period from October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2000.

The FY06 budget totals \$98.6 billion – \$1.4 billion more than requested than in fiscal year 2005.

The FY07 budget is \$110.0 billion, an \$11.4 billion increase from FY06.

The FY06 budget requests the resources necessary to provide trained and equipped forces to the combatant commanders.

The Army will depend upon emergency supplemental funding to sustain its efforts in the Global War on Terrorism.

This budget, however, postures the Army to continue its aggressive restructuring, from a force designed for contingency operations in the post-Cold War era to a modular force designed for continuous operations.

The budget balances immediate force needs with the development of future enhancements.

Movement ——— From Page 3A

One of the keys to training is for senior NCOs help the junior NCOs fine tune their soldiers, said Payne; who has been the HHC first sergeant for eight months.

The Soldiers needed to be to be trained in new tasks for this deployment, Payne said, such as driving non-tactical vehicles and they also needed to go through the Isolated Personnel Report station.

The NTV class prepared soldiers for driving civilian sports utility vehicles in Southwest Asia, said Staff Sgt. Robert Rodriguez, motor sergeant, HHC, DSB. Rodriguez, from New York, N.Y., said there would be follow up classes.

ISOPREP is not new to the military, said Spc. Sarah E. Meyer, signal intelligence analyst, HHC, DSB. Special operations groups have already been using the system. Meyer said ISOPREP. a collection of information concerning a Soldier's personal life which is not recorded anywhere.

"We don't want them to use anything in their military records that could be readily available," said Meyer, who calls Edmond, Okla., home.

So Soldiers going through ISOPREP relate four short stories, such as first romantic crush or first car, as well as a code number that they might remember under duress, Meyer explained.

Meyer also said it helps the command identify the repatriated servicemembers who've been in

Hunter plans for several facilities, amenities near

Catherine Caruso
Frontline Staff

Popeye's chicken and Anthony's Pizza are coming to Hunter Army Airfield this summer.

The new restaurants are just one of \$8 million worth of improvements the Army and Air Force Exchange Service Forces plans.

"When you shop at our stores, this is how we reinvest the money that is left over after we pay the bills," David Gentry, AAFES general manager for the installation, said. "All of our profit goes back into the community."

For several years, access control measures at installations Army-wide have made it harder for Soldiers and civilians to go off-post to eat, Gentry said.

Even when there are restaurants available outside the gate, the time it takes to get to them, eat, and return to work doesn't appeal to time-pressed military diners, he said. "In Savannah, you could spend your whole lunch hour trying to drive down Abercorn Street."

AAFES relies on a combination of customer feedback and demographics to decide how it will allocate its resources each year. In the "quick-serve restaurant sector," burgers come first because Americans eat more of them per capita than any other kind of fast food, followed by chicken, pizza, and subs or sandwiches, Gentry said. "So, if we are adding services, you can be pretty sure those four are going to come first."

Also on AAFES plate this year

are renovations to the Hunter exchange, which will make the interior cleaner and brighter with a more modern floor plan.

Projects for Fort Stewart include renovating the old exchange and converting it into big-box style furniture store with a mall-style promenade. Inside will be a Manchu Wok, a Godfather's Pizza, a day spa, and an internet café.

On Harmon Ave., a new shopette will be built inside gate 3, which opens onto Highway 144. The shopette will have a Popeye's chicken franchise, and a car wash.

A pair of coffee shops are also in the works. A Main St. Espresso cafe will open this month at the new Education Center outside Gate 1, and Starbucks coffee will soon be available on the main post.ry said.

captivity for a long period and who may not look the same.

Soldiers are also getting help with their marksmanship skills.

We received new scopes for our M-16s, Payne said. He went on to say the new scopes were tested at firing ranges at Fort Stewart, as well as on a range in Kuwait. Along with getting used to the new scopes and firing their primary weapons, Soldiers also took time to reintroduce themselves to their secondary weapons at the local range.

Speaking to his company formation one morning recently Payne said; "The more you fire your weapon, the more comfortable you'll be with it."

"The purpose for the range was getting use to firing in this environment," said Sgt. David S. Thiriot, medical supply sergeant, 550th Area Support Medical Company.

Thiriot, from Las Vegas, Nev., said it is important to fire a weapon after arriving in theater to insure it did not get damaged in transit and it is still combat ready. Thiriot was a safety instructor for the M-203 grenade launcher and Mark-19 automatic grenade launcher range, both additional weapons to the Soldier's basic M-16. Knowing how to use the weapon is important. Knowing when is critical.

"We've trained our Soldiers how to react to incoming fire and how to employ the Rules of Engagement," Payne said.

"We teach the rules to our troops to ensure that they use the appropriate amount of force against our enemies," Capt. Jennifer N. Blount, judge advocate, DSB, went on to explain. "The ROE sets standard guidelines for our troops to follow so they don't violate international laws and treaties; and so they understand what type of weapons and weapon systems to use when confronted with certain situations."

Understanding the road ahead and preparing to meet their challenge, that's what the DSB has been doing. And they've been doing it well.

"I'm quite proud of the soldiers I'm serving with," said Payne. "I'm looking forward to a successful deployment and returning safely to our families."



Maj. Mcnutt, convoy commander, HHC 1, BCT, briefs Soldiers on the convoy route at Camp Anaconda before setting out on the last leg to Camp Dagger.

South Carolina Army guard welcomed home in Georgia

Story and Photos by
Jennifer Wingfield
Frontline Staff

As their rotation ends, many National Guard members find themselves returning back to their mobilization station for the first of many welcome home ceremonies.

Members of the 3rd Battalion, 178th Field Artillery and 343rd Combat Support Company were greeted Feb. 5 with cheers, applause, standing ovations, hugs, and tears of happiness.

Brief formal welcome home remarks were given by Brig. Gen. Mitchell M. Willoughby, assistant adjutant general, South Carolina National Guard, and Col. Jim Griese, commander of 151st Field Artillery Brigade.

Once the Soldiers were assembled in their welcome home formation inside Caro Gym, Brig. Gen. Willoughby asked them to take a deep breath. “The air that you are breathing now is that of peace and resolve. Your

service will be amongst your proudest moments.”

Willoughby also thanked the family members for their sacrifice and prayers.

Griese told the Soldiers that they were all “national treasures.”

Amy Byrd and 4-year-old son Bryson were waiting for Spc. Brandon Byrd. Having been gone since Feb. 2004, Amy said that she was sure Brandon wanted to have some food from Leo’s Chicken Wings and ride his motorcycle.

Spc. Kevin Goodwin’s family of wife Melissa and 10-month-old Michael were among the anxious in the crowd. “I’m going to work while Kevin stays at home to take care of Micheal,” Melissa said.

“We are going to visit family all over South Carolina,” Sherill Morris said. While husband Spc. Heavis Morris was gone, she has been taking care of 2-year-old Shakiya.

Shantella Cohen was present to greet her brother Spc. Joey Linnen

with 1-year-old nephew Keiondre Atkins.

The homecoming was the best birthday present for 59-year-old Danny Brooks who was there to greet Sgt. Joe Merritt, his son-in-law. Brooks is not a stranger to the military having served in the Army National Guard also. “We were the first ones here this morning before anyone else had even opened the gym,” Jean Brooks said. They have a full range of plans for Merritt that includes fishing in Key West, going to the mountains, and traveling to the beach and Gatlinburg, Tenn.

Stephanie and Christiana Cardwell, 3 and 6-years-olds, were dressed in matching battled dress uniform dresses to fit in with their dad, Sgt. Michael Cardwell. “I have been missing him dearly,” said wife Annie.

Russell Wade Luther, 11-months-old, was in the capable care of his grandfather Thomas Luther, Jr. during the deployment of Sgt. Thomas Luther. Luther’s wife Alisha has plans



The walls of Caro Gymnasium, adorned with welcome home signs, are usually one of the many sights that welcome returning Soldiers.

for family get-togethers and vacations.

Present at this welcome home was Col. John M. Kidd, commanding officer, Fort Stewart Garrison. He shared how diverse the audience can be when the guards returns. “Usually you will see more of the extended family when National Guards return. Families come from father distances. The execution is the same though, which is a good thing.”

Col. Kidd shared a lighter moment that occurred at one of the recent National Guard arrivals. “There was a little girl who was playing near the

podium with me as the Soldiers entered. As the gymnasium got quiet, she called out, ‘Grandpa!’ Most of the Soldiers in formation turned towards her direction. That just reflects on the maturity of many who deployed and are returning.”

As the families Saturday were finally reunited, Annie Cardwell said that her husband was the best thing she had seen in months. Patricia Cardwell, Michael’s mother remarked, “I gave the country my son. He has come back whole.”

More Photos Page 8A



The gym was overflowing as families awaited return of the South Carolina 3rd Battalion, 178th Field Artillery and 343rd Combat Support Company.



Finally able to pose with his some of his family, Spc. Tyrie Tisdale stands with family friend Viola Selph (left) and mother Alethia Tisdale.

“Welcome home” family moments



Photos by Jennifer Wingfield
Sgt. Michael Cardwell has his arms full with wife Annie and daughter Stephanie after his year long deployment.



No matter the time of day or night members of the Vietnam Veterans Association #789 are there to show their support. In attendance Saturday was (from left to right) Ron Stroud, John Menard, Paul Spence, Ned Youngblood, Tom Youngblood and Butch Hemingway.



Shantell Cohen, 2-year-old Shakiya Morris and her mom Sherill, view their Soldiers as they walk in Caro gym.



Patriotism was in abundance from the family of Joe Carnes as they celebrated his return after a year long absence.

POLICE REPORTS

- **Subject:** Private, 22-year-old male, Div. Sup. Bde.
 - **Charges:** Wrongful possession of marijuana, wrongful use of marijuana
 - **Location:** Hunter
-
- **Subject:** Civilian, 27-year-old female
 - **Charges:** No insurance, expired tag, failure to stop at posted stop sign
 - **Location:** Hunter

- **Subject:** Private, 24-year-old female, 2n Bde.
- **Charge:** Obstruction of justice
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Civilian, 31-year-old male
- **Charges:** Speeding 86/55
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private, 19-year-old male, separate unit
- **Charge:** Larceny of AAFES property
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 19-year-old male, separate unit
 - **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, speeding 45/30
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
-
- **Subject:** Sergeant, 23-year-old male, separate unit
 - **Charges:** Spouse abuse, simple battery, obstruction of justice
 - **Location:** Savannah

- **Subject:** Specialist, 29-year-old male, separate unit
- **Charge:** Assault consummated by battery
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 19-year-old male, 4th



- Bde.
- **Charges:** Larceny of AAFES property, simple assault, resistance, breach of arrest and escape
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 24-year-old male, separate unit.
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, speeding 79/55
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, separate unit
- **Charges:** Disrespect to a commissioned officer, disrespect to a noncommissioned officer
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Specialist, 24-year-old male, separate unit

- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, speeding 81/55
- **Location:** Savannah

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 25-year-old male, 4th Bde.
- **Charges:** Indecent assault, indecent exposure, false swearing
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Privae 1st Class, 23-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
- **Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private, 21-year-old male, 4th Bde.
- **Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Civilian, 23-year-old male
- **Charges:** Larceny of AAFES property, obstruction of justice by fleeing, obstruction of justice by giving false information
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Specialist, 25-year-old male, 4th Bde.
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, failure to obey general order, defective equipment
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private, 19-year-old male, 1st Bde.
- **Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 23-year-old male, Avn. Bde.
- **Charge:** Wrongful use of amphetamines
- **Location:** Fort Steward

Up-armor factory meeting Army’s demands

Staff Sgt. Reeba Critser
Combat Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Since August 2003, the production of up-armored Humvees has gone from 15 to almost 500 vehicles per month to meet the needs in Iraq.

The sole maker of up-armored vehicles – Armor Holdings, Inc. – found their production requirement go up as insurgents in Iraq used more improvised explosive devices on convoys.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker visited O’Gara-Hess and Eisenhardt, an Armor Holdings factory in Fairfield, Ohio, Feb. 4.

“We’re increasing our production to help the men and women in Iraq,” said Ronald Carson, production and fabrication manager at O’Gara-Hess and Eisenhardt.

In December, Secretary of the Army Francis J. Harvey discussed building 550 vehicles a month with Armor Holdings executives to ensure Soldiers in theater have additional protection.

The 600 employees of O’Gara-Hess and Eisenhardt work 10-hour shifts to ensure U.S. Soldiers have the best built-in steel-armored vehicle available to them, Carson said. The additional up-armored vehicles are needed to replace the add-on armored vehicles.

“This vehicle is built for mine protection in the

front and rear; armor piercing in the front, rear and side; overhead fragment protection; and also protection on the side for the gunners against (improvised explosive devices),” Carson said.

The ballistic glass, created at the Fairfield plant, is sent out in kits to the field for installation to provide added protection against IEDs and other ammunition.

Army depots and arsenals have also been working to build armor add-on kits to be inserted into existing military vehicles in Kuwait to provide protection. This will result in the combatant commander’s requirement for armored vehicles to be fulfilled at the end of this month. The Armor Holdings factory-built up-armored vehicles will replace the vehicles with add-on armor in theater.

In addition, the factory also makes gunner protection kits, spare parts and supplemental armor components for superior fortification.

Carson, whose 19 years in the company has sent him to Haiti and Bosnia to assist the U.S. Army, said “we need to do this to protect the Soldiers. This vehicle (up-armored Humvee) is the most used vehicle over there and I’ve seen a lot of vehicles hit by mines and gunfire. Troops there who survive come here to the plant and talk to our engineers who take notes, tear the vehicles apart and make them better.”

The Department of Defense pays about \$140,300 for the M1114 Humvee armored vehicle in contrast

to the \$64,800 for an unarmored one. The cost of an armored vehicle includes the chassis from AM General and armoring from O’Gara Hess & Eisenhardt. In the last fiscal year, \$1.27 billion was spent to produce 6,665 M1114 up-armored vehicles, in addition to the 3,684 up-armored Humvees already on contract.

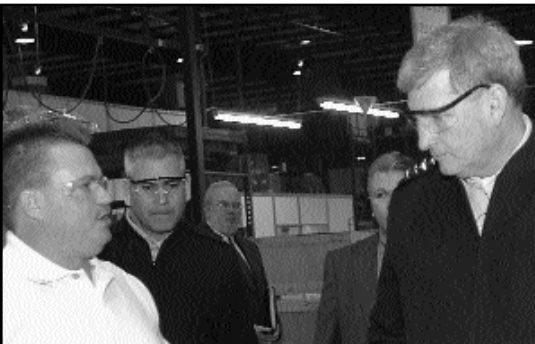
The Humvees are lined up in nine lanes inside the factory. A clock stands above each lane, counting down from 40 minutes. Different parts are installed in different lanes and each lane has 40 minutes to install their parts. That’s how the plant is able to build approximately 26 vehicles a day.

“Doing my job helps save lives over there (in theater),” said Don Meier, a heater and air conditioner installer with the company and an Army Reserve Soldier with the 478th Engineer Battalion in Kentucky.

A mechanic in the Army, Meier returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom in July 2003 with the added experience of clearing mines, and guarding ammunition supply points and bridges.

“When (my unit) goes back we’ll have (vehicles with) bullet proof windshields, our gunner will have a shield and the vehicle will be protected all around against ballistic rounds, (rocket propelled grenades) and IEDs,” he said. “I wish I had these when we went the first time.”

On Schoomaker’s visit to the plant, he thanked



Ronald Carson, production and fabrication manager at O’Gara-Hess and Eisenhardt, shows Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, Army chief of staff, the ballistics glass that will be installed in up-armored Humvees.

the employees for all their hard work after touring the production line.

“I’m satisfied the company is working very hard to meet the (secretary of the Army’s) requirements,” he said. “I’m impressed with the people making it happen. It’s not a fully automated process. I’m thankful for the quality of the work they produce.”

The Army’s top general told the employees that in addition to the up-armored vehicles, that tactics are being changed also.

“We’re changing doctrine based on lessons learned,” Schoomaker said. “We’re changing the way we’re doing our training, adapting our technology and training and developing leaders to protect our Soldiers in addition to the vehicles.”

3ID IN BRIEF

Stewart

Universal Studios

Two day trip including transportation, two-day attraction ticket and lodging is scheduled for Feb. 20. Adult fare is \$150, children \$90 and anyone under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Busses will depart at midnight from Bldg. 443. For more information, call 767-8609.

Bowling and Golf

Free bowling and shoe rental at Marne and Hunter Lanes, 1 — 5 p.m. for Soldiers and family members. No golf fees at Taylors Creek and Hunter Courses from 1 — 5 p.m. Golf cart rental, \$7 per person for 9 holes or \$12 per person for 18 holes.

Red Cross CPR Instructors

If you are a current CPR/First Aid Instructor with the American Red Cross, you need to register with the Savannah Chapter — Liberty Branch to keep your certification current.

You can call 876-3975 or visit the local office in the Winn-Dixie Shopping Center between Goodwill and Pro-Fect for more information.

Finance Location Change

As part of the preparation for deployment in support of OIF 3, the 3rd Finance Company will provide finance support to garrison units, MEDDAC and DEN-TAC from the finance section in

the finance section located at the **Soldiers Support Center**.

All 3rd ID units will continue to receive Finance Support from the current Customer Service in Bldg. 9118 or the finance team located within the brigades.

For more information, call Capt. Langley or Master Sgt. Ramsey at 767-4680/5724.

Track and Field/Soccer

Registration is open and FREE to all current CYS members living on or off post. All children must have a current physical ion file at time of registration.

For more information, call 767-2312/4371.

Sweetheart Dance

Club Stewart is hosting a Valentine's Day dance Saturday from 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

For more information call, 368-2212.

Library

Read a Poem to Your Sweetheart - Schedule a 30 minute appointment at the Stewart Library to record a DVD of you reading to your sweetheart, from 1 to 8:30 p.m.

Cooking Class

Cooking Class - at Club Stewart from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$5. Advance signups required by Feb. 17. For more information call 368-2212.

Hunter

Tax Center

The Tax Center located at the Legal Center, Bldg 1211, is now open 9 a.m. through 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, through April 14.

Call 303-3675/3697 to make an appointment, or for more information.

Recycle your old phone book

2005-06 Savannah telephone directories are now available. Bins for recycling old phone books will be available at the HAAF and Fort Stewart recycling centers.

Yellow Ribbon Ceremony

Hunter Chapel will host a prayer services for deployed Soldiers on the third Tuesday of every month. Services begin Feb. 15 starting at 1 p.m. with a Tree Ceremony, outside the chapel. Bring a yellow ribbon for your spouse or unit to hang on the tree, and join others in the chapel to pray for the Soldiers after the ceremony. Those who cannot attend can bring yellow ribbons for the tree at any time. For more information, call 352-5111.

DECA Scholarship

Commissary scholarship applications are due Monday and must be turned in at the commissary. Children of active, reserve, retired or deceased service members can compete for merit-based awards up to \$1,500. Dependents age 21 (or 23, if a full-time student) who will be attending college in 2005-06 are

eligible. For more information, see Web site www.militaryscholar.org.

Leadership Skills Enhancement

LSEP leadership and software courses with Central Texas College are free to service members. Free to adult family members and DOD civilians on space-available basis. Classes meet for about three hours daily and are worth college credit. Upcoming courses: Excel, Feb. 14 — 17; Time Management, Feb. 14 — 17; Effective Writing, Feb. 18 — Mar. 18; Professional Ethics, Feb. 22 — 25; Personal Finance, Feb. 22 — Mar. 11.

See an education counselor to register, or call 352-6130 for more information.

Free Child Care

Free Child Care for dependents of deployed service members is available at Hunter Child Development Center the first Saturday of each month. The registration fee is waived, but you must enroll child with CDC. Reservations, blue registration card, and acopy of orders are required. For more information, call 352-6115 or 352-6075.

Teen Sweetheart Dance

The Teen Sweetheart Dance is Feb. 12, 7 — 11p.m., Hunter Army Community Services, Bldg. 6052. The cost is \$2 per person, \$3 per couple. For more information, call 352-5708/6075

Winn /Tuttle

Flu vaccine for all

Flu vaccine is now available for all beneficiaries at the immunization clinic.

For more information, call the immunization clinic at 370-6633.

Newborn TRICARE Prime

Parents now have 60 days from the date of birth to enroll their newborn in TRICARE Prime. If the 60-day window is not met, the child will be automatically enrolled in TRICARE Standard.

You must enroll your child in DEERS before you can enroll into TRICARE.

For more information, 767-4909 or 352-5726. Call TRICARE at 1-800-444-5445.

TRICARE Phone Numbers

For general health care information, you can call the Humana Military Audio Library at 877-217-7946.

For more information of if you have questions about TRICARE, you can call TRICARE at 800-444-5445 or the Health Benefits Office at 370-6633 or 800-652-9221.

Baby Basic Training

Baby Basic Training offers first time fathers-to-be the chance to ask questions and practice taking care of their child through hands-on training. The class, facilitated by a man, will cover topics including diaper changes, bathing and

holding an infant and what to expect during pregnancy, labor and delivery.

For more information, call 370-6779.

Update DEERS

Beneficiaries must keep their DEERS information up-to-date or they may not be able to receive referrals, schedule appointments or access TRICARE Online. Winn and Tuttle use DEERS information to contact you regarding referrals and appointments. DEERS information can be updated by calling 1-800-538-9552, visiting: www.tricare.osd.mil/deers/default.cfm or stopping by Bldg. 1209.

EDIS

Educational and Development Intervention Services is now located next to the main pharmacy in Winn. Military families with children up to 3 years old who may be at risk for developmental delays can call EDIS for a free screening.

For more information, call 370-6349.

Walk to Winn Program

This 12-week walking program is designed to increase activity, water intake and fruit and vegetable consumption. Registration begins today and spaces are limited.

For more information, call 370-5071 to reserve your place.

Army Safety Center becomes Combat Readiness Center

Frontline Staff

FORT RUCKER, Ala. — The Army Safety Center has been recast as the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center by order of Secretary of the Army Dr. Francis J. Harvey.

Harvey directed the change to advance the principles, understanding, and practice of Composite Risk Management.

Combat Risk Management will focus on sustaining readiness and managing all risks — those posed by the enemy, the environment, materiel and systems, and human error — logically shifting from accident-centric to Soldier-centric.

Transformation of the Army Safety Center to the Combat Readiness Center supports Army transformation and sup-

ports the Global War on Terrorism, said Brig. Gen. Joseph A. Smith, the center's commander.

"The change is intended to move beyond the old concept of 'safety' which had become viewed by many Soldiers as an occasional action rather than a constant foundation for all other activities," Smith said.

"In some cases, Soldiers do not grasp the outcome of being unsafe until 'one of their own' is involved — recognizing, too late, the consequences of the accidental loss in making the unit less prepared, lowering its readiness, and potentially putting the unit mission at risk," Smith said.

The USACRC will function as a field operating agency of the Army chief of staff.

Safety remains a foundational component of the new organization, officials said.

They said the Army Safety Office, located in Washington, D.C. becomes the "front door" of Army Safety by focusing on the compliance aspects and reinforcing the use of Composite Risk Management as a tool to help prevent all loss.

The United States Army Combat Readiness Center will establish new processes leveraging information from Army organizations to collect, distill and distribute knowledge about losses that impact combat readiness, officials said. The center's mission includes:

- Primary responsibility for investigation of Army accidents.
- Focal point for instigating the necessary cultural changes and developing the

processes, structure, and training necessary to Composite Risk Management Army-wide.

- Development of predictive trend analysis using digital technology and data mining in order to identify loss trends and preventive measures.

The Army Combat Readiness Center will enhance safety by providing the Army with a "close-the-loop system" of information about losses, officials said.

They said the new center will capture the analytical expertise of all loss-related professionals — safety and combat — to provide commanders, across the Army, with actionable knowledge about any loss.

(Editor's note: Information provided by news release.)

It's always someone else's baby until it's yours.

immunize

1 out of 4 babies is not fully immunized. your child could get a deadly disease. get all your baby's shots before age two.

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Ad Council

Valentine Day rates extend for all deployed Soldiers

AAFES
Public Affairs

DALLAS — The military exchange pre-paid phone card rate reduction originally planned for the holidays through Jan. 5 has been extended through Valentine's Day for calls placed from deployed locations using 550-Unit and 200-Unit Military Exchange pre-paid phone cards.

Deployed military personnel using 550-Unit Military Exchange Prepaid phone cards from Army & Air Force Exchange Service phone centers throughout Iraq and Afghanistan have been connecting to friends and family back home at reduced rates since Nov. 24.

"Because AAFES understands the necessity for affordable communications between the front lines and the home front, we aggressively pursue ways to reduce prices with AT&T to secure a reduced rate for our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq," said AAFES' Commander Maj. Gen. Kathy Frost. "Since we know phone calls home provide an instant morale boost we realize we must continue to negotiate the absolute lowest possible rates on behalf of troops in deployed locations."

As a result of these negotiations, troops in Afghanistan and Iraq who use AAFES' 200-Unit Military Exchange Global prepaid phone card through Feb. 14 will also enjoy a holiday rate of only .22.5 cents per minute.

The decreased rate for the 200-Unit card is also good news for anyone who would like to send a phone card to deployed troops. The reduced rate means that a \$14.99, 200-Unit Military Exchange prepaid phone card purchased through the "Help Our Troops Call Home" program will provide 16 additional minutes of talk time for troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. "The reduced rate means that the 200-unit card will now provide more than an hour of calling time between Iraq or Afghanistan and the Continental United States while the 550-Unit card continues to provide more than three hours of time for phone calls home," said Frost.

The AAFES' "Help Our Troops Call Home" program has helped Marines, Sailors, Airmen and Soldiers stay in touch with loved ones back home. These funds have been used to purchase and distribute 24,406 550-Unit Military Exchange Global Prepaid Phone cards and 7,707 200-Unit cards. The "Help Our Troops Call Home" initiative offers phone cards that do not expire and do not add any additional charges or connection fees.

Both 550- and 200-Unit Military Exchange Global prepaid phone cards can be sent to individual service members or "any service member" through the American Red Cross, USO, Air Force Aid Society or the Fisher House Foundation. AAFES' charitable partners have distributed 7,866 phone cards since the "Help Our Troops Call Home" program began in April 2004.

Sixty-four AAFES call centers throughout Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom have been critical in keeping deployed troops and their families in touch. The Military Exchange 550- and 200-Unit prepaid phone cards offer the best value for troops who enjoy calls home from

any of AAFES' 47 call centers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The "Help Our Troops Call Home" initiative allows any American to make a direct contribution to the morale of troops who find themselves far from home.

Individuals, organizations and businesses can log on to Web site *www.aafes.com* and click the "Help Our Troops Call Home" link. You can also call 800-527-2345 for more information on what is available.

Free Packing Materials from the US Postal Service

The United States Postal Service is offering free packing materials to spouses and families of military members who are deployed overseas.

To take advantage of this service call:1-800-610-8734 and press 1 (for English & then 3 for an operator), alternate direct line 1-800-527-1950 and they will send you free boxes, packing materials, tape and mailing labels. These products are to be used to mail care packages to service members.

Make sure you ask for **CARE KIT 4**. You will be receive:

5 - 7"x7"x6" boxes

5 - 12"x12"x8" boxes

1 - Roll of tape

15 custom forms

10 address labels

5 - tybek bags(water proof and non tear)

Call this number to order: 1-800-610-8734 (Press 1 for English and then 3 for operator).

MWR Calendar of events

February 2005

Every Tuesday in February
Brigade Combat Team Bowling Nights - Bowling \$0.75 and free shoes, 6 to 9 p.m. Call Marne Lanes, 767-3250 to book your group.

Every Wednesday in February
Brigade Combat Team Bowling Nights - Bowling \$0.75 and free shoes, 6 to 9 p.m. Call Stewart Lanes, 767-4273 to book your group.

Feb 1-28
Lighten Up! Tighten Up! At Club Stewart & Hunter Club - Buy a healthy lunch meal and get a stamp on your frequent purchase card. After 10 stamps, redeem our card for a prize. All cards are entered in a national drawing for a free spa vacation or free exercise equipment.

Feb 1-28
Golf Special at Taylors Creek and Hunter Golf Course - Knock the rust off your clubs and play at a discounted rate all month. Call 767-2370 or 352-5622 for info.

Feb 10
Free Moon Walk for Kids - Free Moonwalk, 3 to 6 p.m., for children under age 12 at the Leisure Activities Center. Call Roni at 767-8609 for details.

Feb 11
Dinner and a movie - Shrek 2 - at Club Stewart, 6 to 8 p.m. Adults \$9.95, Children 9-12 eat for half price. Call 368-2212 for more details.

Feb 12
Free Saturday Golf Clinic at Taylor Creek - Spouses and juniors, 10 to 11 a.m. Cancelled in bad weather. Call 767-2370.

Sweet Heart Dance - 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. at Club Stewart. Tickets are \$10 at the door. Call 368-2212 for more information.

MWR Lighten Up! Tighten Up! Events
9 to 10 a.m. - "Buns on the Run" 1-mile run or walk run on the quick track. First 50 to register and show up get a free tee shirt
9 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Free kiddie rides at the Club Stewart parking lot
9 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Stewart Library How-To Live Healthy DVDs, books, and videos
10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. - Step aerobic demonstration
11 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Blood glucose, blood pressure, cholesterol



screenings, and body mass index's testing
11 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Natural foods display and sales
11:30 a.m. to Noon - Introduction to pilates
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. - Flexibility testing
12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m. - Cardio-kickboxing demonstration
Special BINGO Session - at Club Stewart, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., call 368-3930 for more details.

Feb 14
Pamper Yourself at Savannah Day Spa - \$150 cost includes massage, pedicure, manicure and lunch. Bud leaves Stewart Leisure Activities Center, 9 a.m. and returns 3 p.m. To sign up, call 767-2841.

Feb 16
Read a Poem to Your Sweetheart - Schedule a 30 minute appointment at the Hunter Library to record a DVD of you reading to your sweetheart, from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

Feb 17
Read a Poem to Your Sweetheart - Schedule a 30 minute appointment at the Stewart Library to record a DVD of you reading to your sweetheart, from 1 to 8:30 p.m.

Feb 18
Free Short Game Clinic at Hunter Golf course - 1 to 3 p.m. For more details call Tommie at 352-5622.

Free Activities for Special Needs Children - Members and non-

members, 4 to 6 p.m. at Youth Center and School Aged Services. Activities for all children and youth. For information call 767-6071.

Spouse's Night Out - Club Stewart every Friday, except training holidays, 5 to 9 p.m. Enjoy Karaoke, food ad games. Call 368-2212 for more details.

Feb 19
Free Saturday Golf Clinic at Taylor Creek Golf Course - Spouses and juniors, 10 to 11 a.m. Cancelled in bad weather. Call 767-2370 for details.

Trip to Universal Studios in Orlando, Fla. - Buses leave the Stewart Leisure Activities Center, Building 443 and Hunter Outdoor Rec. Feb. 19 at 5 a.m. and return Feb. 20 at 10 p.m. Cost is \$150 for adults and \$120 for children. Cost includes ticket, lodging and transportation. Call Roni at 767-2841 to sign up.

Cooking Class - at Club Stewart from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$5. Advance signups required by Feb. 17. Call 368-2212 for details.

Feb 23
Read a Poem to Your Sweetheart - Schedule a 30 minute appointment at the Hunter Library to record a DVD of you reading to your sweetheart, from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

Feb 24
Read a Poem to Your Sweetheart - Schedule a 30 minute appointment at the Stewart Library to record a DVD of you reading to your sweetheart, from 1 to 8:30 p.m.

Feb 25
Spouse's Night Out - Club Stewart every Friday, except training holidays, 5 to 9 p.m. Enjoy Karaoke, food ad games. Call 368-2212 for more details.

Feb 26
Free Saturday Golf Clinic at Taylor Creek Golf Course - Spouses and juniors, 10 to 11 a.m. Cancelled in bad weather. Call 767-2370 for details.

Learn to Shoot Archery - Outdoor Rec Archery Range, off highway 144 behind Pass & Permit. Free class, 10 a.m. to Noon. Teaches safe handling and shooting techniques. Open to all ages. Call Willie, 767-5032 to sign up and for more details.

Kids ——— From Page 1A
we focused on water. The water delivery system was sub-standard so we contracted for water to be distributed. The trucks run everyday delivering 200,000 liters of water per day to the residents. A long-term project is to work (sewer) pipes into the zones but that is a long way off and will be picked up by our replacements,” he said.

While making great strides toward improving their living environment by repairing or replacing essential services, the Soldiers of Alpha Battery have also worked hard to make everyday survival for the citizens in their zone just a bit easier.

“Over the year we have distributed frozen chickens to

the people in the community, supplies to the local schools and recently we handed out some sweaters and the people really like to get the stuff from us,” said Bethlehem, Pa. native Spc. Jonathan Harowicz, driver. Alpha Battery. “It makes me glad that we are helping them out. When we first went out there, their planting fields were barren. I have seen the fields gradually improve; the irrigation canal is now clean and has water flowing through it because of the pumps we have provided. We had the seed distribution a while back and they have really come a long way since then. The school we renovated is really coming along nicely, too. We’ve painted the building

and built bathrooms and I have seen a lot more kids coming to school. Things have drastically improved,” said Harowicz.

Unlike some locations of the 1st BCTs area of operations, the Rustamiyah region has a ready industry to bolster the economy.

“We have about 4000 acres of farm land in our area,” said Haynes. “We have mapped out several hundred of the farms which mostly consist of small 10 to 20 acre lots. Being that it is primarily farm land out there, we decided to focus on the agricultural piece, prior to the harvest last year, the battalion delivered 375 tons of seed and fertilizer to the farms in the area.”

“We also helped the community found the United Farmers of Iraq Co-operative,” continued Haynes. “The co-op will give them better prices on their seed and help them distribute their crops after harvest. The division has purchased some farm equipment to be delivered once the facility is completed Feb. 15. The cost to build the co-op was \$150,000, which included construction of the building, furniture and computers for the offices. We built it, but it will be run by the farmers in this area and was approved by the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture. This way, we are helping the people legitimize their own government by working with them as well.”

After getting the farmers on their way to prosperity, Alpha Battery was able to switch its focus to other

aspects of the community.

“Currently there is no secondary school, but we have a contract in for one,” Haynes said. “It will contain six class rooms added to one of the other schools. In an effort to look after the health of the people, we conducted a Medical Civil Action program which screened approximately 200 people. The majority of the cases have been minor coughs and aches. For chronic problems, we refer them to get the help they need. The people have been very receptive to this.”

Of the many changes Haynes has seen in the zone over the past year, one in particular stands out in his memory.

“Each family in Iraq gets a monthly stipend of rations,” said Haynes. “One of the farmers we gave a humanitarian assistance bag said he no longer needed it. Since we had given him the seed as well as the irrigation, his crops had done so well he did not need his rations for that month. He also did not want to take the humanitarian aid bag if someone else needed it more. That has been one of our biggest success stories.”

With all the obvious improvements in their area of operations, the company has experienced an equally noticeable and positive side effect.

“The folks in our zone are genuinely trying to better themselves and their country and they are glad we are here,” Haynes said. “Because of all this, we have had absolutely no enemy contact



Sgt. Adrian Venegas, Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, 1st Brigade Combat Team, drops off two of the 20 heaters the company delivered to the Al Bayariq primary and secondary boys and girls schools located in the Rustamiyah District of Baghdad Jan.12.



Soldiers of Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, 1st Brigade Combat Team, delivered more than 4,500 school books to the Al Bayariq primary and secondary boys and girls schools located in the Rustamiyah District of Baghdad Jan. 12.

in our zone. The people have formed a sort of neighborhood watch and whenever there is anything going on that looks suspicious, they tell us. For example, while we were out patrolling one day, a man, not even from our zone, let us know that some insurgents were trying to destroy the bridge. The people in our community don’t let strangers into their area. That helps keep insurgency activity out.”

Though a far cry from the usual mission of a field

artillery battery these troops feel their time has been well spent and they will have a lasting impact.

“By doing good things for the children and the families, the children will grow up respecting freedom and not wanting the violence in their country,” Haynes said. “At times, I think I didn’t join the Army to be handing out soccer balls to kids, but in the grand scheme of things, if that is what you need to do to defeat your enemy, then that is what you do,” he said.

48th Brigade receives 5,000 pre-paid telephone cards

Story and Photos by
Sgt. Roy Henry
Georgia National Guard
Public Affairs Office

Ask a group of Soldier's what's important to them, especially when they're deployed and they'll give a variety of answers. The most important to many, it seems, is their ability to stay in touch with family and friends.

For troops of the Georgia Army National Guard's 48th Brigade Combat Team, that ability to stay in touch with families and friends got a boost when the brigade's top enlisted Soldier received around 5,000 pre-paid telephone cards from the USO's Savannah chapter Jan. 26 at the Fort Stewart Education Center on General Stewart Way.

Command Sgt. Maj. James Nelson accepted the cards on behalf of the troops, some of who joined him for the presentation by Savannah Chapter president Mitchell Bush.

The USO, Bush said, knows that, whether the troops are here or overseas, they're getting food, water and everything else they need. What the organization doesn't know, he added, is whether they're getting the opportunity to stay in touch with the ones they love.

"The 48th isn't ready to leave, just yet. So, in the mean time," Bush said as he held one of the 200-minute phone cards for everyone to see, "but with these, we're going to make sure its Soldiers are able to call the folks at home."

He added that if the brigade found that those 5,000 cards were not enough, there was no need to worry. Another 10,000, Bush explained, had been ordered.

Nelson, a smile on his face, accepted the small, long cardboard box containing the plastic credit-card size gifts from Bush, assuring him that the cards

would be distributed among the brigade elements for every Soldier.

"This," Nelson said as he cradled the box in his arms, "is just another example of how groups like the USO take care of our men and women in uniform. We (the 48th Brigade) greatly appreciate all the organization does for us."

After the presentation of the phone cards, the 48th Soldiers and members of 3rd Infantry Division, who also attended the event, received bags of personal hygiene items and other goodies from USO volunteers. The troops also took time to sample baked goods and other refreshments made available by the volunteers.

Sgt. Brian Franklin, ammunition handler, 48th's Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 118th Field Artillery, said he has always appreciated the USO.

"They give so much to us in the military, and the donation of the phone cards is just another example of that," Franklin said. "And the baked goods aren't bad either."

Sgt. Angela Gowen, a medic and the NCOIC for the Advance Trauma Life Support element of the brigade's Company C, 148th Forward Support Battalion, agreed.

Items like the "goodie bags" are well received by the troops, she said. Everything the USO does helps make her and other Soldiers not miss home so much.

"Knowing that there are people out there who care and are proud of us for who we are and what we do," she said, while checking out the items she received in her own bag, "makes me that much prouder of who I am."

It also takes away a bit of that loneliness one feels when they are away from the ones they love," she added.

More than 4,000 members of the 48th Brigade Combat Team are here training up for a year long deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III. While many of the Soldiers are from Georgia, others from Illinois, Maryland



Sgt. Angela Gowen, with Georgia's 48th BCT, checks out the goodies she and other Soldiers from the brigade and 3rd ID received from the USO.

and Missouri, for example, have joined the brigade for its upcoming mission.

The 48th will spend the next two months here at Fort Stewart, then move on in the spring to the Army's National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., for additional training.

No time line has been announced for the brigade's eventual deployment to Iraq.



Mitchell Bush (left), president of the USO's Savannah chapter, explains the reason why his organization has handed over an estimated 5,000 pre-paid phone cards to Command Sgt. Maj. James Nelson of Georgia's 48th BCT.



Specialist Brian Franklin (left) and Sgt. James Harris, both with Georgia's 48th BCT, pickup baked goods and other goodies offered by members of the USO's Savannah chapter. Franklin and Harris are members of the brigade's Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 118th Field Artillery in Brunswick.

Uparmor

From Page 1A

"We will be working on equipment that was left behind so when the division gets back, they will have it ready to use should they be called upon for action elsewhere," Hough said. "Upon their return, the equipment they took with them will have met operational tempo that is ten times what would normally be expected. Equipment here will be ready and we can assist the division in being fully mission capable."

Once a vehicle is ready, Soldiers receive the equipment and perform a 10-20 technical inspection to see if all corrections had been made and meet mission requirements, Talbot said.

"The contractor (LSI or Eagle Group) has quality assurance representatives within a civilian government group or disinterested party who performs quality inspections making sure vehicles meet the contractual and battlefield requirements," Hough said.

But if there is a problem with a vehicle in-country, Soldiers are fully capable of repairing their own equipment, Talbot said. "We just assist them so that they can concentrate on the other things they have going on."

Before the deployment, Soldiers had concurrent missions, Hough explained, "They had to train, do everything from their Soldier readiness checks, resolving family plans, range qualifications, training at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., command post exercises, and other things that took them away."

Hough said, "They are all one deep. In other words this is not the army of 30 years ago where you had bunches of mechanics. There are enough to do the job. Now when they have to do those other things like the training that is necessary to survive on the battlefield, we fill the gap to allow them to be trained and ready to meet the requirements of a combat environment and to make sure their equipment is there for them."

Eagle Group worked in different areas based on the requirement. Some were working long hours daily to meet deployment requirements. Another section was meeting the readiness requirement for the division's left



James Richards, a mechanic from England, works on equipment suspension system.

behind equipment. Still another was assisting the 48th Brigade and other National Guard and reserve units who mobilize and demobilize here.

National Guard gets equipment support

The National Guard usually arrives with older equipment, Hough said. This means a shift in equipment preparation and that is where experience comes in. "Each person here knows the generation of a piece of equipment. Whether it's an A1, A2, A3 or some version, a deuce-and-a-half to a LMTV, being able to know the equipment is what we bring to the table. Whether it's reserve, National Guard, or active duty, we are very flexible in helping with the mission when the country calls," Hough said.

The 48th Brigade brought in their own equipment, we were ready to work with them. "It's almost like a concurrent mission to meet the requirements for the Army," Hough added.

Stewart's uparmor history, projects

Before the deployment there were multiple uparmor missions. M1's, M13's, ADH, ADLV's... every piece of equipment was inspected and worked upon. "We have been involved in getting vehicles ready since they returned from OIF I. The Eagle and LSI crews has been here in one form or another since 1996," Hough said.

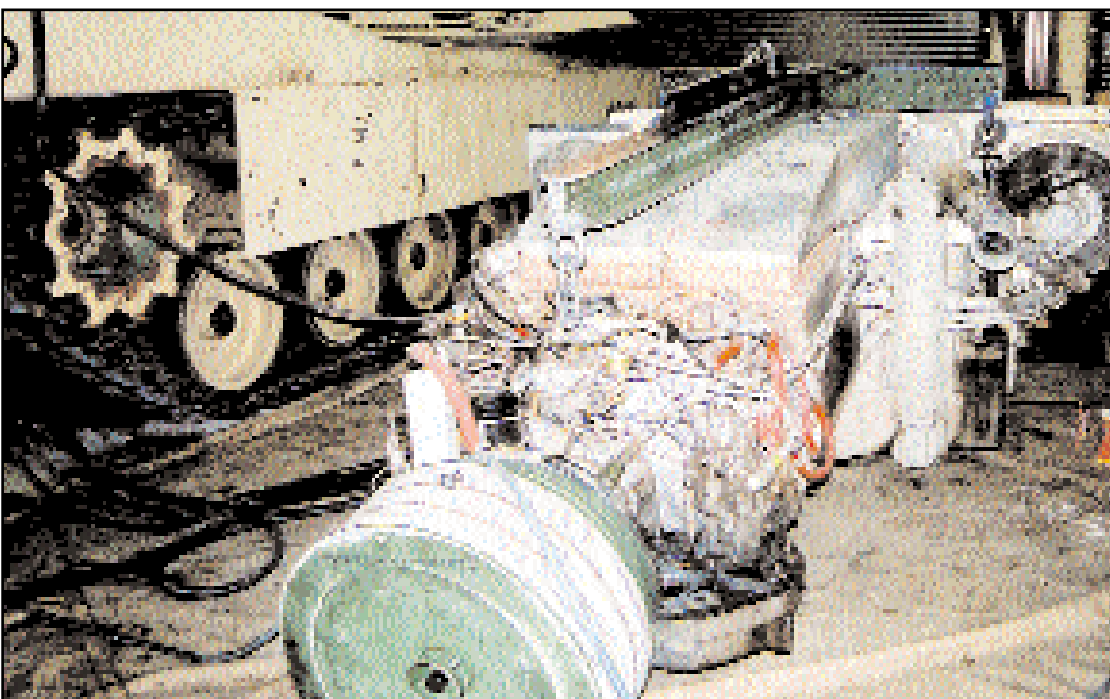
Dave Grass, project officer for uparmoring at Stewart, provided the three-fold mission: provide support to the division by means of Department of the Army civilians and contract augmentation in the areas of Class II, VII, and IX for reconfiguration to modularity; provide organizations through general support maintenance for pre-deployment and deployment; move the 3rd Inf. Div. to embarkation port and provide left behind equipment maintenance; and support up to two enhanced brigade mobilizations as well as standing up two additional brigades for the 3rd Inf. Div. while they are deployed.

Any deployment from Stewart is a complete team effort between the Soldiers, DA civilians and contractors.

As of October 2004, over \$1.5 million in parts and over 58,000 man-hours had been used working on division equipment. Over 800 Humvees were uparmored from Stewart, Hunter Army Airfield, Fort Benning, Fort Bragg, N.C., and Fort Campbell, Ky.

From May 2004 to December over 7,000 pieces of equipment had been repaired or serviced in conjunction with the Directorate of Logistics who had over 8,000 weapons and over 4,000 navigational aids.

This production management is located in key points across the United States, Korea, Kuwait, and Afghanistan with oversight provided by a project officer in each location. Personnel who work within the program are all capable and have been involved in some or all of the following duties: integrate the Army program with Forces Command; form partnerships with federal agencies or industry; refurbish equipment; augment motor pool mechanics with contractors; provide equipment training to Soldiers; redistribute major equipment;



A M1A1 engine awaits repair by facility mechanics.

perform aviation maintenance; rebuild and repair parts; Army Contingency Operations Stock; readiness parts distribution system; repair night vision devices and other electronics; track repair; and organizational clothing and individual equipment.

Dedication to service continues

Eagle Group has over 1,000 people working at Stewart, Hough said. "These guys have years and years of experience; the majority with military backgrounds. Some have been all over the world working on tanks and vehicles as a career. This is what they love to do and they have seen it all."

Because of a shortage of mechanics in this area, sub-contracted Europeans work for Eagle Group as certified mechanics. Mechanics from Scotland and England have been contributing to the surrounding communities by their presence since 2003. "They have impacted the economy and the readiness of the division and are every bit as good as their American counterparts," Hough said.

Talbot has been at Stewart since 1996. Once he got out of the military from 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry, he went to work with LSI.

Hough falls into a similar situation, having retired in 2000. He comes with a background as a battalion commander and former G-4 for the division. Like Talbot, he wanted some way to contribute to the nations efforts.

"We take a personal interest in each piece of equipment and we give the Soldiers the best opportunity to survive on the battlefield with some of the best mechanics in the world. All of us are very proud of what we do and are committed and connected to give our Soldiers every opportunity to do their best when they go to war," Hough said.

"We know that they (Soldiers) are sons, daughters,

husbands, wives, brothers, sisters, mothers, and fathers. Each of us is connected to that."

Talbot, a Desert Storm veteran, said that a large percentage of the people working on the equipment had been to Iraq during the 90's know what kind of punishment the equipment takes over there. "So we know what we have to do on this end to make sure the equipment works."

A lot of times the mechanics don't see the appreciation for the work they perform, but they believe that what they are doing is more than just a paycheck. "Having been in the military, it is hard for some to remove themselves from that mode. There is always that connection with the Soldier. Some miss that camaraderie, that you don't have as a civilian, but in a manner, we are contributing to it. That is why these guys often endure a lot of hardships to continue," Hough said.

Rest assured

"I am fully confident that the life of a Soldier is not at risk when they get into an M1," Talbot said.

Dan Willis, also a senior technician, also added, "A Soldier will not have to worry in his mind about his vehicle. Of those vehicles that are coming in with problems, we are making them back to 10-20 standards as if they were coming from the factory and never used."

Hough added that America can rest assured that when the division returns, Eagle Group will still be here ready to make sure their equipment is capable for Soldiers to use and fight again. "And it is conceivable that they could get a week or two to unpack and then be gone again to another hot spot; it has happened," Hough said. "Nothing in this business is perfect. They don't necessarily have to come back and get a year off again. Could be six months or as little as three depending upon what happens in Iraq."